

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2012



Contact:

Diana L. Klink
757.514.4104
757.359.1845

Tim Kelley
757.514.4103
757.871.3039

SUFFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY OFFICER UNIT INFORMATIONAL MEETING

SUFFOLK, VA (September 18, 2012) The Suffolk Police Department will be holding an informational meeting on September 27, 2012, 7 p.m., at the Suffolk Police Department Sector 2 building (3903 Bridge Road) for citizens interested in volunteering as part of the Suffolk Police Department's Auxiliary Officer Unit or in any other volunteer capacity with the organization.

The Department is looking to expand its use of volunteers to provide services, both to internal and external customers. The auxiliary unit provides critical staffing support at special events, traffic checkpoints, and day-to-day operations. The Suffolk Police Department allows for two levels of volunteerism within the Auxiliary Program: the Auxiliary 'A' Program and the Auxiliary 'B' Program.

(more)

Entrance requirements are as follows for both Auxiliary 'A' and 'B' positions:

- Must successfully pass a background investigation
- Must successfully pass a polygraph examination
- Must successfully pass a Chief's interview
- Auxiliary Police Officers must pass a psychological examination
- Auxiliary Police Officers must successfully pass a medical examination

Auxiliary 'A' program is a sworn and armed volunteer position requiring applicants to complete a Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) certified academy that lasts 10 months, 3 nights a week and some Saturdays. In addition, the applicant must complete 350 hours with a Field Training Officer before they obtain their certification as a law enforcement officer. Officers must work a minimum of 16 hours per month or a total of 192 hours per year and must also complete DCJS re-certification training every two years, consisting of 40 hours of in-service training. Officers must also re-qualify on the firing range once per year and must re-certify annually in defensive tactics.

The Auxiliary 'B' Program is a non-sworn and unarmed volunteer position. The Auxiliary 'B' Officers are utilized as Traffic Assistance Officers. Once accepted, the Traffic Assistance Officers will be required to attend a 10-hour training course as well as complete four training "ride-alongs".

(more)

Traffic Assistance Officers help out in several ways providing assistance with traffic control at accident scenes as well as special events to include DUI checkpoints and festivals. Traffic Assistance Officers also receive training to assist with stranded motorists on Suffolk's roadways.

Suffolk Chief of Police Thomas Bennett said, "In this economy, Police Departments need to expand their volunteer services to accomplish their mission. There are many people who wish to volunteer at a local Police Department. They just aren't sure how to go about it."

There will be a background investigator on hand at the meeting to offer information on required background checks in order to volunteer. Anyone with specialized skills such as public speaking, training, clerical skills or any other skill that might benefit the Suffolk Police Department is encouraged to come out to the meeting and find out more about the program.

From January 2000 to the end of August 2012, the officers of the Suffolk Police Auxiliary Unit worked approximately 20,000 volunteer hours serving their community.

For more information on the meeting, please call Lieutenant J.D. Buie at 757-514-7999.

###